

1248979

Registered provider: Little Belsteads Care Home Limited

Interim inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This privately owned service provides care for up to four children who have learning disabilities.

Inspection date: 7 March 2018

Judgement at last inspection: requires improvement to be good

Date of last inspection: 9 August 2017

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

This inspection

The effectiveness of the home and the progress and experiences of children and young people since the most recent full inspection

At the monitoring visit on 9 August 2017 the home was judged to be requires improvement to be good.

At the interim inspection, Ofsted judges that it has improved effectiveness.

The children have started to make good progress since moving into the home. There has been a decrease in challenging behaviours as the children have settled and staff have gained a good understanding of their individual needs.

The children have comprehensive placement plans in place, which are regularly reviewed and updated. This supports the staff in understanding and working effectively with the children and supports them in helping the children to progress.

The staff understand the importance of the children being able to learn independence skills in line with their age, ability and understanding. One child has recently begun to

shower himself and clean his teeth, while another child can help himself to breakfast cereal and help staff clear away. The staff want children to have the skills to be able to do things independently, which will give them confidence and support them as they get older.

The children receive appropriate consequences to help regulate their behaviours. The manager has devised an individual sanction book for each child, which has a picture exchange communication system on the front to support the children in being able to communicate to staff on how they were feeling prior to the sanction being given and their views on the sanction. The staff have thought about how children's wishes and feelings can be obtained.

There have been no incidents of children going missing. Each child has an individual missing from care protocol and risk assessment in place should this happen. There is appropriate security within the home to prevent children from leaving without the staff's knowledge.

The staff have a good understanding of safeguarding. All staff complete safeguarding training within the first three days of beginning work in the home. Safeguarding is discussed during staff meetings and supervision. The staff have the opportunity to discuss and keep up to date regarding safeguarding concerns in the home.

There are clear, comprehensive individual risk assessments in place, which are regularly reviewed and amended when necessary. These support the staff in understanding the children's risks, which further safeguards them.

There has been one complaint since the last inspection. This was regarding the storage of medication and was anonymously sent to Ofsted. The responsible individual responded appropriately and medication was checked during the inspection. Medication is stored and recorded appropriately. All staff undertake medication training and the manager completes monthly audits.

The staff are up to date with their mandatory training. There is a vigorous induction programme in place, which supports new staff in understanding their roles and responsibilities. All staff have or are in the process of completing their national vocational award level 3.

There have been 29 physical interventions since the last inspection. The majority of these pertain to a child who can severely self-harm himself and are used appropriately. All holds are recorded and evaluated by the manager. The staff support the children in communicating their feelings regarding the hold. The staff complete detailed incident forms following a hold, which are evaluated by the manager. This enables the staff to look at trends and patterns of behaviours which can then be incorporated into the care plan and risk assessments.

The house is decorated to a good standard. The children's bedrooms are personalised. Each child also has a personalised picture exchange communication system in their

room, which explains their morning routine. The children have had input into other areas of the home and there are photos of children around the house. There are picture exchange communication systems around the home to support children in understanding what to do in the event of a fire and how to complain. The kitchen has signs so the children know what is in each cupboard. There are large, well-maintained grounds surrounding the home. The home has a pig and horses and is looking at getting some more animals.

The registered manager began working in the home in August 2017. She is registered with Ofsted and has the relevant experience and qualifications to manage the home.

The manager has a very clear vision to drive the home forward and in a short space of time she has identified areas in the home that need improving and developing. She has begun to look at recording systems and placement plans, which will support the staff in working with the children.

The five requirements made at the last inspection have been met:

- Risk assessments are in place, which support the staff in keeping the children safe.
- Placement plans are detailed and comprehensive and support the staff in working with the children.
- All staff are having regular supervision.
- Staff are recording any physical interventions within 24 hours and complete a detailed incident form.
- The manager has completed a detailed workforce plan to support the development of the home.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
09/08/2017	Monitoring visit	Requires improvement to be good
18/07/2017	Full	Inadequate
22/06/2017	Monitoring visit	No judgement

Information about this inspection

Inspectors have looked closely at the experiences and progress of children and young people. Inspectors considered the quality of work and the differences made to the lives of children and young people. They watched how professional staff work with children and young people and each other and discussed the effectiveness of help and care

provided. Wherever possible, they talked to children and young people and their families. In addition, the inspectors have tried to understand what the children's home knows about how well it is performing, how well it is doing and what difference it is making for the children and young people whom it is trying to help, protect and look after.

This inspection focused on the effectiveness of the home and the progress and experiences of children and young people since the most recent full inspection.

Using the 'Social care common inspection framework', this inspection was carried out under the Care Standards Act 2000 to assess the effectiveness of the service, how it meets the core functions of the service as set out in legislation, and to consider how well it complies with the Children's Homes (England) Regulations 2015 and the 'Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards'.

Children's home details

Unique reference number: 1248979

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Little Belsteads Care Home Limited

Registered provider address: Little Belsteads, Back Lane, Little Waltham, Chelmsford CM3 3PP

Responsible individual: Peter Adams

Registered manager: Cindy Burt

Inspector

Trish Palmer, social care inspector

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